

A NEW AFRICAN MEMBRACID

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Through the courtesy of Mr. H. K. Munro of the Entomological Section of the Division of Plant Industry of Pretoria, South Africa, the author has had the opportunity of examining a considerable number of Membracidæ from the collection of that institution.

In this collection was found a rather remarkable form in which the female undoubtedly belongs in the genus *Platybelus* Stål while the male apparently falls in the genus *Promitor* Distant. Distant erected the genus *Promitor* to accommodate a single species, *P. nominatus*, which differed from *Platybelus* in the absence of pronotal horns. It is evident that if the males and females here described belong to the same species, and we are convinced that such is the case, the presence or absence of horns will not hold as a generic or even as a specific character in this group.

***Platybelus brunneus* new species**

FEMALE: Small, brown, pubescent; suprahumeral long, curved, extending outward and upward; posterior process strongly arcuate at base, impinging on tegmina for posterior half; tegmina wrinkled hyaline with base brown, opaque and pilose; scutellum and sides of thorax strongly white tomentose; abdomen and legs brown.

Head subquadrate, roughly sculptured, wider than long, brown, densely pubescent; base regularly arcuate; eyes brown; ocelli amber-colored, large, conspicuous, equidistant from each other and from the eyes and situated about on a line drawn through centers of eyes; inferior margins of genae curved; clypeus large, extending for half its length below inferior margins of genae; tip rounded, pilose.

Pronotum brown, densely pilose; metopidium sloping, about as wide as high, one each side an irregular foveate spot; median carina strongly percurrent; humeral angles blunt, extending lateral beyond the eyes as far as the width of the eyes; suprahumeral horns long, curved, flattened dorsoventrally, extending upward and outward, longer than the distance between their bases; posterior process slender, sinuate, highly arched over scutellum,

touching tegmina along posterior half, not reaching tip of abdomen; scutellum entirely exposed, densely white tomentose, triangular, tip rounded.

Tegmina wrinkled hyaline; veins strong and brown; limbus wide; base brown, opaque and pilose; five apical cells; three large and two very small discoidal cells on left tegmen; two large and two small discoidal cells on right tegmen; veins slightly pubescent.

Legs and undersurface of body uniform brown; sides of thorax densely white tomentose.

Length from front of head to tips of tegmina 5 mm.; width between tips of suprahumeral angles 3.5 mm.

MALE: Smaller and darker, without suprahumeral horns but otherwise resembling the female. The absence of suprahumeral horns would throw this form, according to all descriptions and taxonomic keys, into the genus *Promitor*. Distant but the fact that it was taken with the female as well as the agreement in all other characters would seem to preclude the possibility of its belonging to an entirely separate genus.

Length from front of head to tips of tegmina 4.5 mm.; width between humeral angles 2 mm.

Type: female.

Locality: Warmbaths TP., Roodekuil, Africa.

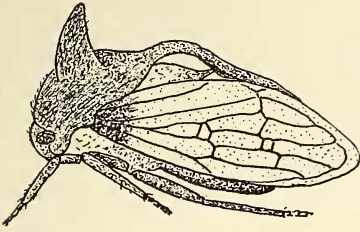
Described from three specimens, one female and two males, all from the same locality, collected by Mr. H. K. Munro on June 12, 1929. Type and paratype in Mr. Munro's collection; allotype in author's collection.

The writer is greatly indebted to Mr. Munro and his associates, not only for permission to study the entomological material in the collection, but also for the many courtesies extended to him on the occasion of his recent visit to Pretoria.

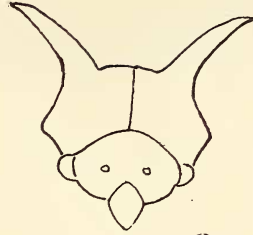
PLATE XXI

Platybelus brunneus new species

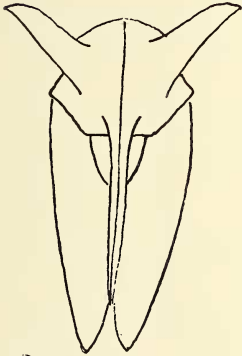
1. Lateral view—female
2. Frontal outline—female
3. Dorsal outline—female
4. Lateral outline—male
5. Frontal outline—male
6. Dorsal outline—male



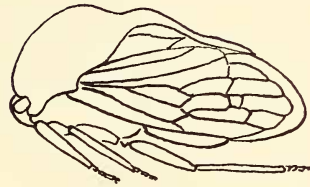
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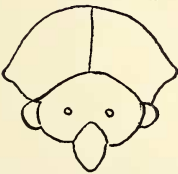
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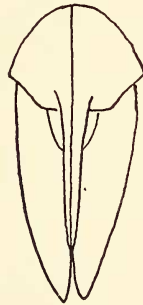
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PLATYBELUS BRUNNEUS